

[0019] I claim:

1. A bicycle carrier for mounting to a vehicle comprising:

a supporting member which is mountable directly or indirectly to said vehicle, said supporting member having thereon a cradle to receive a bicycle fork crown, said cradle being oriented on said supporting member whereby when mounted on said vehicle said cradle will support a bicycle from said bicycle fork crown, with said bicycle being suspended below said bicycle fork crown.

2. The bicycle carrier of claim 1, wherein said supporting member is a generally vertical structure with a horizontal upper structure on which said cradle is mounted.

3. The bicycle carrier of claim 2, wherein said supporting member has a means of attaching to a vehicle hitch.

4. The bicycle carrier of claim 2, wherein said supporting member has a lower structure with means for securing a bicycle rear wheel.

5. The bicycle carrier of claim 2, wherein there is a plurality of cradles mounted on said upper structure for carrying a plurality of bicycles.

6. The bicycle carrier of claim 5, wherein said plurality of cradles are mounted at an angle such that said cradle supports said bicycle fork crown and the bicycle handlebars at an angle other than perpendicular to said bicycle.

7. The bicycle carrier of claim 2, wherein said cradle includes at least one tie down means for securing said fork crown or a bicycle fork.

8. A vehicle mounted bicycle carrier comprising:

a horizontal support member mountable to said vehicle, said horizontal support member thereon having a cradle, said cradle supports a bicycle fork crown, a bicycle is hung vertically below from said fork crown and said cradle.

9. The bicycle carrier of claim 8, wherein said horizontal support member is mounted to a generally vertical support member and a vehicle hitch.

10. The bicycle carrier of claim 8, wherein there is means for securing said bicycle or said bicycle fork crown, to said horizontal support member or said cradle.

11. The bicycle carrier of claim 8, wherein there is a means for securing a rear bicycle wheel to said vehicle mounted bicycle carrier.

12. The bicycle carrier of claim 8, wherein said horizontal support member is mounted generally parallel or generally perpendicular to the rear of said vehicle.

13. The bicycle carrier of claim 8, wherein a plurality of cradles for carrying a plurality of bicycles, are mounted to said horizontal support member.

14. The bicycle carrier of claim 13, wherein said cradles support said plurality of bicycles with said bicycle fork crown and handlebars at an angle other than parallel to said horizontal support member.